

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 HEW-02 /081 W

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P 151734Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3982

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4933

E. O. 11652: GDS2

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVES TO UNHRC WORKING GROUP VISIT

REFS: STATE 163768; SANTIAGO 4895

1. JUNTA PRESS SECRETARY, FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY, CALLED CHARGE ON ANOTHER MATTER TODAY, JULY 15. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION WILLOUGHBY REMARKED THAT HE ASSUMED WASHINGTON VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY FOREIGN RELATIONS VALDES HAD BEEN SOME DEGREE USEFUL. HE SAID PRESIDENT AND TOP GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE CONSCIOUS THAT DECISION ON UNHRC WORKING GROUP VISIT CREATES SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR USG. AT SAME TIME, IT IS THEIR BELIEF THAT DIFFICULTIES WOULD HAVE BEEN STILL GREATER HAD WORKING GROUP BEEN PERMITTED TO VISIT AND SUBMIT ITS REPORT.

2. WILLOUGHBY SAID PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT OPEN TO SUGGESTION AS TO GOC ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL AT THIS STAGE. HE SAID CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO CREATION OF CHILEAN NATIONAL COMMISSION TO EXAMINE SAME HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF WORKING GROUP STUDY. HOWEVER, WILLOUGHBY THOUGHT CREATION OF SUCH COMMISSION WOULD BE MISTAKE IN THAT IT WOULD CONSTITUTE ADMISSION OF NEED TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS.

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3. WILLOUGHBY SAID HE WAS RECOMMENDING STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH

RECENT GOC LEGISLATION. (UNDOUBTEDLY HE HAS IN MIND DECREE LAW OF EARLY MAY ON NATIONAL SECURITY (SANTIAGO 3084) REQUIRING THAT DETAINEE'S STATUS BE REGULARIZED WITHIN FIVE DAYS, AND FAMILY NOTIFIED WITHIN 48 HOURS OF ARREST.) WILLOUGHBY SAID PRESIDENT HAD BEEN MEETING WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING ALL HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND, OF COURSE, OTHER STEPS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING LOOKING TOWARD ELIMINATION OF THIS ENTIRE PROBLEM.

4. CHARGE CONFIRMED THAT DECISION POSED SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR USG, NOTING DIFFICULTIES IT WOULD CREATE IN CONGRESS. HE ENDORSED WILLOUGHBY'S DESIRE FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH GOC LEGISLATION, COMMENTING THAT EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THIS AREA REQUIRES CONSTANT VIGILANCE, AND ENCOURAGED GOC CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO VISIT OF UNHRC WORKING GROUP.
THOMPSON

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